



CITY COUNCIL

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ZONING COMMITTEE ADVANCES MAJOR WAIKIKI SPECIAL DISTRICT CHANGES

Today the City Council's Zoning Committee advanced Bill 63, which makes the first significant amendments to the Waikiki Special District rules since 1996. Zoning Committee Chair Charles K. Djou (Waikiki, Hawaii Kai) stated, "This move makes major changes to the Waikiki Special District design guidelines to help further the exciting revitalization of Waikiki. This bill furthers the redevelopment of Waikiki by allowing nonconforming properties to renovate and keep their nonconformities in exchange for more open space."

A recent study found that Waikiki alone produces 8% of Hawaii's GDP and generates over 70,000 jobs in Hawaii's economy. Almost no other area in the United States creates as large an economic impact in as small an area as Waikiki. Bill 63 was introduced because the 1996 amendments to the Waikiki Special District failed to create the spark for redevelopment many had hoped. Specifically, the bill provides incentives for renovating nonconforming properties by allowing certain nonconforming uses to continue in exchange for more open space and permitting outdoor cafes, outdoor lighting and new height limits, without increasing density.

"This bill represents hundreds of hours of work by the Waikiki Improvement Association and the Department of Planning and Permitting. The potential for urban renewal generated by this legislation is critical to maintaining Waikiki as the vibrant economic engine of Hawaii," stated Djou.

Bill 63 now advances to the full City Council for final reading on November 5.

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